

Briton deported from US seeks visa for visit

From Our Own Correspondent
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Mr Cedric Belfrage, the ex-patriate British writer who was deported from the United States 18 years ago for alleged communist associations, has applied to reenter America next month on a visit. But his application appears unlikely to secure the approval of the Nixon Administration.

Mr Belfrage, who is now living in Mexico, had been invited by his publishers to come to New York for the publication on April 15 of his new book entitled *The American Inquisition 1945-1960*. He was asked also to address the Radical Institute for Policy Studies in Washington and to speak at 30 universities across the country as well as at numerous other forums.

He has written to a number of senators and other authorities here to ask them to intervene on his behalf. A number have done so, but so far their efforts have been without avail.

Mr James Kiley, the spokesman for the visa division of the State Department, said that officially Mr Belfrage's visa application was still under consideration. He acknowledged that the Department had received a number of inquiries on the writer's behalf and said permission might still be granted before April 1 when

Mr Belfrage is due to fly to the United States.

However, this seems doubtful. Even if the State Department decided to waive the immigration law's "exclusion clause", permission would still have to be granted by the Justice Department.

Senator Mike Mansfield of Montana, the Democratic leader, made inquiries into Mr Belfrage's case at the request of Miss Jeanette Ranking, the determined pacifist who was the first woman to serve in Congress.

The senator's administrative assistant said that no final decision had been received from the State Department, but added that there would normally be little prospect that someone who had once been deported from the United States would be allowed to reenter the country.

In a telephone interview from Cuernavaca, Mr Belfrage, who left Britain at the age of 21 but was deported back there in 1955, said he found it difficult to determine the basis for his continued exclusion. He denied that he had ever been a communist, as the Government alleged during the McCarthy era, and said he had been prosecuted solely for his editorship of the *National Guardian*, a New York radical journal.